Active Service of Gen. T. W. Sweeny, as Told by His Letters.

REBELS FALL BACK.

Graphic Description of the Battle of July 22.

McPHERSON'S DEATH,

Two Sides to the Story Between Dodge and Sweeny.

EDITED BY W. M. SWEENY (HIS SON), ASTORIA N. Y.



they made and by breaking through there they would cut off the Fifteenth Corps, and probably annihilate it. They counted without their host, however, as Logan is not the man to be bluffed in that way.

"We left Dallas on the 1st and moved up on the Burnt Hickory road, in order to shorten our lines, they being too much extended. We have just received orders to move again in the same directionthat is, toward our left, the enemy having moved that way last night, evidently with the intention of preventing us from outflanking him. I will await further developments before sending this.

"Ackworth, Ga., June 7, 1864 .-Here we are on the railroad again, and with a fair prospect of getting full rations once more. The few sutlers that accompany the army keep the meanest to halt and await further orders there. assortment you can imagine on hand, and charge as high as even a Jewish conscience will permit; but we are willing to pay any price, provided we can get what we want, which we do not.

"The enemy have fallen back on Marietta, and are supposed to have taken up a strong position between here and there, at a place called Kenesaw Mountein, which I suppose they will hold as rode down to the picket-line to ascertain had learned them as a cadet. Sweeny



GEN. FRANK P. BLAIR. long as they can-that is, until they are outflanked.

"My opinion is, Joe Johnston is trying to gain time, and, like Micawber, is WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO TURN UP. I have no doubt the rebels have been fortifying the Chattahoochee River all this time, and making a final disposition | killed the rebel Gen. W. H. T. Walker. of the public property in and around the contest in Virginia.

"If I were in Gen. Sherman's place I would have fought Johnston when he line." occupied the position between Allatoona and Dallas. I am certain we should have been victorious. We have been skirmishing constantly, and our losses count of the battle of July 22 and the tre very heavy.

"This last move has brought us from tles and Leaders." He says: the right to the left of the army. As usual, the Second Division covered the movement, and the First Brigade is still at Allatoona Creek, about two miles distant, guarding the bridge there. The Third Brigade is at Rome. The division is always called upon to occupy perilous positions, and whenever a daring enterprise is talked of the men expect to be ordered to execute it as a matter of course. It gets no credit in the newspapers, however, because it has no correspondent along; while there is not another division in the army, I'll

venture to say, but has at least two. "The railroad trains will probably be running here in three or four days. We have now to haul our supplies from Kingston in wagons."

In a letter to Bodge, dated at Nash- Union army that could have been or- But I beg you to see that no injustice is done to But I beg you to But I be ville, Tenn., July 30, Sweeny says: "You will be surprised, no doubt, to had been known to us. It was to place Dodge with Gen. Sweeny. It may be personal. learn that I am here, and Atlanta not yet taken; but such is the fact, neverlearn that I am here, and Atlanta not the remainder of Gen. Dodge's Corps, theless. I have been ordered here in arrest to await my trial by general court-martial, on charges preferred by and halted sometime before noon, in the charges band send away a General; it is a high power, but I construe the power to reside with

Gen. Dodge. The cause of my arrest open ground sloping down toward a the commanders of my three armies, because the 22d, in which my division played edge of a wood. Here, then, in the of arrest, and see that no injustice is done a during the fight,) broke twice and was if in waiting for the saved from utter annihilation by my

artillery. "After the fight was over Gen. Frank P Blair rode down at the head of his staff to where I was and, in the presence of everyone there, thanked me for sav- thickets and obstructions that opposed ing the Army of the Tennessee. I thanked him, but told him that I never expected to get any credit for it. He said he'd "be - if I shouldn't," as he had to write the report himself. I being verified, for every account I have seen so far tells anything but the truth; and where my division is mentioned it is in such a way that it plays a secondary part, and is so mixed up with other divisions and brigades that you can make

REASON | neither head nor tail out of it. "The facts are simply these: The such desperate ef- Sixteenth Corps, consisting of my diforts to force our vision (Second) and the Fourth Brigade, Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps in position is that it Gen. Fuller commanding, all under was considered the Gen. Dodge's command, were moving weakest point, nat- into position on the morning of the 22d, day. urally, on our lines, when the attack commenced. The

> OBJECT OF THE ENEMY was to cut off the Army of the Tennes-



PAINFULLY SLOW PROGRESS.

I had just crossed the Decatur Railroad the Howard house (Sheeman's Headquarters), when I received orders

of the Fourth Division, which was going livered his orders direct to the Colonels into position. While sitting on a log of the regiments. smoking a pipe one of my scouts came up from the front, and informed me that large bodies of the enemy were mov- This act afterward caused trouble. Gen. ing through the woods in front and to Dodge was not a West Point graduate, the left of where I was, upon which I immediately mounted my horse and the truth of the report.

"While talking to the officer in com- in giving orders direct to regimental mand of the pickets we were fired upon commanders, and pursued the matter so by the enemy's skirmishers, who had approached the edge of the woods. I immediately ordered one of my Aids to ride back as hard as he could, and get a hot-tempered officer. He was placed the division under arms. I examined the ground as I returned, though fired | did not consider his case until nearly on constantly by the skirmishers, and knew where to put every gun and regi-

"I was scarcely in position when the enemy burst upon me from three sides, evidently determined to overwhelm me by the fierceness of their onset; but my boys held their ground, though four of my regiments got out of ammunition. I made them lie down until the rebels came within 40 or 50 yards, when I gave the order to charge, and the enemy were driven back into the woods with terrible slaughter.

" After a bloody struggle of five and a half hours the enemy retired, beaten at every point. My division captured four battleflags and 900 prisoners and

"Gen. McPherson, commanding the Atlanta. Where they will move next Army of the Tennessee, was killed at quitted." I am at a loss to know, but I suppose the same time by the Confederate troops everything will depend on the issue of that made the attack. He rode out to reconnoiter the ground that my division was to occupy as a continuation of our

> Maj. W. H. Chamberlain, 81st Ohio, Gen. Dodge's Aid-de-Camp at the battle of Bald Hill, gives a very graphic acattack on the Sixteenth Corps in "Bat-

"On the morning of July 22 a move-



FIRED UPON BY SKIRMISHERS.

ment was begun which afterward proved to have been the most fortunate for the dered, even if the intention of the enemy

was a personal difficulty I had with little stream, in the rear of Gen. Fuller's Gen. D. in connection with the battle of Division, which was in bivouac near the of the Tennessee, should judge as to the cause such a conspicuous part, and the Fourth rear of the Seventeenth Corps, lay the

APPROACH OF HARDEE'S TROOPS, who had been marching nearly all night around Blair's left flank, and were even then making painfully slow progress, moving in line-of-battle through the their march.

"Our troops were really in waiting for the order to go to their new positions. Gen. Dodge had been out on the left of he would see that I got credit for it if Blair's Corps to select a place for his troops, and had succeeded in drawing a see by the papers that my prediction is shell or two from the enemy's nearest earthworks.

"In a few minutes his command would have been in motion for the front. If that had happened, and his corps had vacated the space it then held, there would have been absolutely nothing but the hospital tents and the wagon-trains to stop Hardee's command from falling unheralded directly upon the rear of the the good of the service demands that at this line. Upon what a slight chance, then, hung the fate of Sherman's army that

of the accounts of the battle are wrong. from Gen. Dodge's command: They represent Dodge's Corps to have see, and they came very near doing it. been in motion Fuller had bivouacked there the previous night. Sweeny's command, while technically in motion, had been halted, awaiting orders.

"Just as Gen. Dodge was about to dismount to accept Gen. Fuller's hospitality he heard firing in a southeasterly direction, to the rear of Gen. Sweeny's Division. He gave Gen. Fuller orders give you at this time. to form his division immediately, facing southeasterly, and galloped off towards Sweeny's Division. He had hardly reached that command when Hardee's

TEARING WILDLY THROUGH THE WOODS with the vells of demons. As if by magic, Sweeny's Division sprang into line. The two batteries of artillery (Loomis's and Laird's) had stopped on commanding ground, and they were promptly in service. Gen. Dodge's quick eye saw the proper disposition to be made of a portion of Col. Mersey's "I came to a halt on the left and rear | Brigade, and, cutting red tape, he de-

"The orders were executed instantly and the enemy's advance was checked. and did not revere so highly the Army regulations as did Gen. Sweeny, who was much hurt by Gen. Dodge's action far as to bring on a personal encounter a few days after the battle, in which he came near losing his life at the hands of in arrest. The court-martial, however,



TEARING THROUGH THE WOODS. the end of the war, when he

The above account contains several mistakes in regard to the personal difficulty between Gen. Dodge and Gen. Sweeny. In the first place, Gen. Sweeny did not revere the Army regulations more highly than Gen. Dodge because he had learned them as a cadet, as Gen. Sweeny was not a graduate of West Point, as stated. In the second place, the

CAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY

was not occasioned by Gen. Dodge's giving orders direct to regimental commanders, as stated, but was occasioned by Gen. Dodge's contradicting a statement made by Gen Sweeny to the effect that during the battle the Fourth Division (Gen. Fuller's) broke twice and was saved from annihilation by Sweeny's artillery. The following letter written by Gen. W. T. Sherman will show the light in which Gen. Sweeny's arrest was viewed by him (see Rebellion Records, Series 1, Vol. 38, Part 5):

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, IN THE FIELD, NEAR ATLANTA, GA., July 25, 1864.

MAJ.-GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN, Commanding Army of the Tennessee. GENERAL: I have your application for the services of Gen. Corse, which I grant, because I want you to have good division commanders.

each has a command other than the troops here on the spot. You, as commander of the Army general officer.

You can see how cruel it would be to a brave Division (Fuller's, where Dodge was two divisions of Gen. Dodge's Corps, as and sensitive gentleman and officer to be arrested, deprived of his command and sent to the rear at this time. I do not believe that Gen. Dodge would willingly do an act of injustice, but still you are the one to judge. I fear that Gen. Sweeny will teel that even I am influenced against him to befriend Gen. Corse, but it is not so. I give up Gen. Corse because



ARREST OF GEN. SWEENY. crisis you shall have good division commanders. I am, with respect, your obedient servant, W. T. Sherman,

Major-General, commanding. The following is from Gen. Schofield "Just here is a point upon which most upon Sweeny's requesting to be relieved HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE OHIO, )

IN THE FIELD, NASHVILLE, TENN., DEAR SWEENY: I owe you an apology for delaying so long to answer your letter and telegram of the 2d. I referred the telegram at once to Gen. Thomas, expressing the hope that your arrest might be suspended and you ordered to duty I have heard nothing from him on the subject, but presume he has sent a reply to you. I could not make a special request in the matter, because I have no commission to

O course, I need not assure you, my dear friend, how glad I would be to see you free from your present disagreeable situation and to have you in my command. I hope the former, at least, may be brought about soon. Yours, very truly, J. M. SCHOFFELD. Brig.-Gen. T. W SWEENY, Louisville, Ky.

The editor of the foregoing has been in receipt of numerous communications from members of Gen. Sweeny's old regiment, the 52d Ill.

L. H. Watson writes from Moorland, Iowa, as follows: "Col. Sweeny was alinstructed in the duties of a soldier, saymight be the commanding officer of to- tained. morrow, and that no man was fit to command until he had first learned how to obey. He was quick to observe and just as quick to detect an act of cowardice and denounce it in the most vate or of an officer.

"In camp he was the stern commander; on the march and in the battle he was the wise, careful father, quick to resent any insinuation or slur cast upon the bravery or ability of his men."

Uriah Titus, Co. D, 52d Ill., writes from Brewster, Minn., and says: "At the battle of Shiloh Col. Sweeny addressed the regiment in these words: 'Boys, I am a little afraid of you, as you don't know what it is to be in a fight; but I'll tell you what I want you to do-don't you run until I do, then run like --!

"After marching out and placing us in line-of-battle he rode down in front. As he passed in front of our company, on his high-spirited horse, a bullet grazed the side of his face, depriving Lieut.-Col. Judson Kilpatrick and the war. him of half of his mustache. Col. Sweeny evinced no further emotion than to coolly remark, 'That's a --- rough razor to shave a man with!"" (The end.)

ALL QUIET ON THE PICKET-LINE. BY THOMAS CALVER.

The sunshine dances with the waves On mid-Potomac's merry tide And resituny its giory laves
In peaceful shoals on either side; The wavelet's kiss alone is heard Where on the bank the publies shine, And nodding rushes pass the word-

Those rushes-how they beat the time To music of the rippling chime Tout marks the midstream's swift advances But as the wavelets near the shore The velve batons wave the sign, And giddy waters laugh no more-

. "All quiet on the picket-line." On either shore, in bygone days, How often has the picket trod, With ready piece and watchful gaze, The tracks that scarred the flowery sod. But now these shores in beauty smile. The trees wave benisons benign, The green leaves whispering the while-

How often in the days of yore Has that report a charm possessed; It meant to warriors worn and sore A respite of sweet peace and rest.
"Hi, Yank!" "Ho, Johnny!" was the word,
A fluttering handkerchief the sign, And kindly greetings then were heard-"All quiet on the picket-line."

How sweet the moments in the woods, When blue and gray there met by stealth— The interchange of soldiers' goods— The haversack's and knapsack's wealth; How dear the memory of the scene-The brook, the overhanging vine, The mossy carpet, soft and green— "All quiet on the picket-line."

No danger could their greetings stay; Though one was proud to wear the blue, The other glad to don the gray;
The picture shows warm brother-hearts
And loves that meet and intertwine,
As each his choicest gifts imparts—
"All quiet on the picket-line," The soldier true, who knows no fear,

No thought of treachery they knew;

No petty spite can ever feel; But glad is he to meet his peer— The foeman worthy of his steel; When it is war, he strikes to pour
Full draughts of glory's ruby wine;
When it is peace, he strikes no more—
"All quiet on the picket-line,"

The war is over, long ago,
And gladly meet the blue and gray;
No truer love can mortals know
Than theirs for formen of the fray.
For each has learned the other's wor h,
And both are proud that fadeless shine
Old G ory's stars in all the earth— "All quiet on the picket-line,"

What the Iron Brigade Experienced in the Old-Dominion.

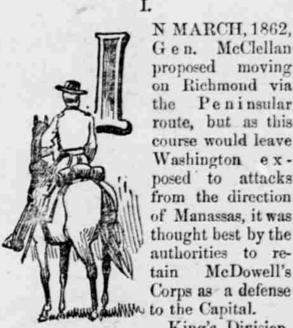
GEN. AUGUR LED.

Berdan Sharpshooters Earn Many Laurels.

NARROW ESCAPE

Eagerly Watching for McClellan's Success.

BY S. E. CHANDLER, 728 EAST FIFTEENTH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



Washington exposed to attacks from the direction of Manassas, it was thought best by the authorities to retain McDowell's Corps as a defense to the Capital.

King's Division, McDowell's Corps, on April 4 took up the line of march from the vicinity of Alexandria, Va., following the Warrenton pike, passing through Fairfax Courthouse and Centerville, crossing historic Bull Run, thence through Manassas Junction, and during the afternoon of the 5th arrived at Bristoe Station, where it went into bivouac for a few days.

While here a disagreeable snow-storm occurred, which turned to rain, and ways careful to have his men properly lasted three days, rendering the camps untenable, and compelling the troops to ing that the private soldier of to-day seek shelter wherever it could be ob-

The division marched to Catlett's Station, a distance of 10 miles, on April 15 and on the morning of the 17th the bravery and reward it as it deserved, First Brigade, (Gen. C. C. Augur,) consisting of the 2d Berdan Sharpshooters, 14th N. Y. S. M. (more familiarly scathing terms, whether the act of a pri- known as the "Brooklyn Boys"), 22d, 24th, and 30th N. Y., a squadron each



THE SHARPSHOOTER AT HIS WORK. of the Harris Light Cavalry and the 2d Pa. Cav. (the former commanded by latter by Col. Bayard), and, last, Battery B, 4th U. S. L. A., took up a line of march, going in a southerly direction.

There was considerable comment among the men in the ranks as to our house in front of which stood an old man watching us. Upon being asked where the road led to, he said:

" Fredericksburg, suh." "How far is it. Uncle?" some one

"Yes, but how many miles is it?"

asked the questioner. "Indeed, suh, I don't know; I've road was repaired. lived heah nigh onto 50 yeah, an' I

destination, about dark, we bivouacked about 16 feet apart. Stringers were in a piece of timber, with orders to make placed across these boats, upon which as little noise as possible.

Col. Sullivan, 24th N. Y., and proceeded railroad bridge.

The enemy had no thought that there also at Washington, 44 miles above. which spanned the Rappahannock River | carpenters to report to Brigade Head- at that time "sizing up" the situation

at Fredericksburg; but some "smart quarters on the following day with one Aleck" of a drummer began to beat day's rations. I had no idea of what the long-roll, which was taken up by duties were required of the carpenters, others, thus notifying the enemy that the but supposed it was to fix up around cavalry was but the advance-guard of a Gen. Augur's Headquarters-work that considerable body of troops. So while would be done in a day or two. As our we were tumbling into line the enemy camp life was terribly monotonous, I fell back to Falmouth, opposite Fred- wished very much to go on this detail, ericksburg, crossed the river, and burned | thinking that even one day at some-

After marching a short distance we be a change for the better. a. m. reached Falmouth, where we dis- carpentery, I was allowed to go.

tall into our hands. We marched through the quaint old Adam Lampman, of the 30th. town, keeping step to the tunes of "Starnatives, who consisted mostly of women to Col. Haupt, Chief of Construction Yankee invaders.

Battery B went into position on the between 300 and 400 men. hights and shelled the enemy's camp proposed moving across the river, just above the city. build a railroad bridge in the place of The battery was supported by the Ber- the one that was burned on the morndan Sharpshooters, who, with their Sharp ing of April 18. The river at this route, but as this rifles, kept the opposite bank clear of point was, as near as I can now recolcourse would leave those who would be likely to pick off the lect, between 350 and 400 feet wide,



WE BUILT A FIRE.

privilege to see Battery B fire her first shot in the war of the rebellion, the 18th day of April, 1862.

In a letter recently received from Capt. Stewart, who was with the battery

at the time, he says: "I never felt so much relieved by any troops as I did when a company of Berdan Sharpshooters were sent out in my front at Fredericksburg, for they certainly and quickly made the rebels cease firing, and the rest of the time we occupied that position we lost neither man nor horse. I must say that their firing was the most accurate I ever saw up to that time, and I can tell you they did not throw away any lead without knowing where it went."

The following day Gen. Patrick arrived with his brigade, consisting of the 20th N. Y. S. M., 21st, 23d, and 35th N. Y. He was two days on the road from Catlett's, and when informed that we had made the distance in one day, remarked that the men must be made of iron to endure such marching. Thereupon Col. Frisbee, of the 30th, gave us the name of the "Iron Brigade," which name we carried till we were mustered out, in the Spring of 1863, when the name was taken up by the Wisconsin Brigade and carried till the close of the

At the time of our advance to this place a naval force had been sent down the Potomac, 44 miles, to Aquia Creek, and had seized that place, which was the terminus of the Richmond, Fredericksdestination, some saying it was to form a burg & Aquia Creek Railroad. The junction with McClellan overland, while enemy had destroyed the stations and others advanced other theories. About bridges between the two latter places. the middle of the afternoon we passed a which the Government at once proceeded to repair.

One bridge, which spanned Potomac Run, was nearly 100 feet in hight. The rails were what were known as the "strap-iron" kind, and were about as easy to ride over as an army cordurov "Oh, it's a right sma't walk, I reck'n, road. Our supplies were brought to Aquia Creek on transports, and were hauled from there to Fredericksburg, a distance of 15 miles, in wagons, until the

A fleet of canal boats, towed by an never took time to measure the distance, old double-ender ferryboat, came up the Rappahannock and were anchored par-When within four or five miles of our allel to the shores and to each other,

vance. They had not gone far before which was about 12 feet deep at high which each man carried. they found the enemy posted on each tide. Although it was not affected by side of the road. They fired a murder- the tide to any great extent, sometimes, cavalry, who, I presume, had been notious volley into the advance squadron, when there was a strong south wind for fied, came there with the intention of killing seven and wounding several. As several days on Chesapeake Bay, it capturing the whole outfit. The train soon as the enemy was discovered Gen. had its effect on the rivers emptying was in a shallow cut, with skids running Augur sent an Aid back to Col. Sulli- into it, crowding the water back. from the cars to the bank, over which van to bring up the remainder of the Hence, the tide was an uncertain ele- the men were rolling the logs, under the brigade as quietly and as quiekly as pos- ment, both on the Rappahannock, where personal supervision of Lieut. Hill, who we were, and also at Aquia Creek, and stood on the bank.

thing other than a military life would

came to the place where the cavalry had After I was relieved I asked the Acttheir brush with the enemy. We saw ing Orderly-Sergeant to name me for three or four dead men lying in the the detail, and, as I was the only man road. We were hurried on, and by 8 in the company who laid any claims to

covered the bridges and boats a mass of | The next morning when we arrived flames. Twenty-two craft of various at Brigade Headquarters we found a kinds were burned rather than have them like number from the other regiments of the brigade, all in charge of Lieut.

We were marched down to the canal-Spangled Banner," "Yankee Doodle," boat bridge, where we crossed the river and "Red, White and Blue." The to the Fredericksburg side, and reported and children, both white and black, and Transportation of McDowell's Corps. showed a good deal of interest in the We also found details from the other regiments of the corps, making in all

We were informed that we were to Several of our boys, including myself, back to the abutments on either side were present at the time, so it was my made the bridge when completed about 500 feet long, while its hight from the bottom of the river to the track was

between 45 and 50 feet. We found considerable timber, which consisted of pine and oak logs, with which we began the construction of the bridge. The oak logs were hewn on two sides, and had been gotten out by the Confederates preparatory to building a gunboat, and were found on the bank of the river near where the canalboat bridge landed, and at a place called

the "shipyard." The bridge was built with bents of three posts each, with a mudsill and cap. They increased in hight from the abutments until they reached the water's edge, when it was necessary to erect two bents, one being placed on top of the other, with a 3x12 plank between, con-

nected with oak dowel-pins. The bents were thoroughly braced with 3x10 pine plank. Those which stood on the river's bank were built where they were to stand, while those in the water were built at the shipyard, after which they were lanched and towed to their place by the old ferryboat, of which mention was previously

We had a quarter-deck canal boat upon which we worked when raising the bents and placing them in position, which was just the right width to float between the bents. The bents were raised from the river and placed in position by two sets of "falls" made fast to the top of the

bridge and manned by a detail of men. There was an old locomotive, called 'Lady Washington," of so little value that the enemy did not consider it worth taking with them when they left. It was repaired and gotten out of the roundhouse, also three or four flat cars that had been ditched. When coupled together with long poles these made quite a respectable train.

When the supply of timber at the ship-yard had become exhausted, the train was run out on the road a few miles and timber gotten from the woods. Lieut. R. L. Hill, of Co. E, 24th N. Y., was in charge of the train and accompanying detail.



HE BEAT THE LONG ROLL

There were no Confederate troops in the vicinity of Fredericksburg during planks were laid, thus forming a bridge | the early part of the time we were work-About 2 a. m. the next morning Gen. from shore to shore. This bridge was ing on the bridge, they being busy with Augur left the brigade in command of built about 40 rods below the site of the McClellan; so that we had no troops stationed south and west of the town, and with the 14th and both squadrons of Fredericksburg was at the head of Lieut. Hill used to go out with his train the cavalry, the Pennsylvanians in ad- navigation on the Rappahannock River, and detail with no arms except revolvers.

One day a company of Confederate

While everything was moving along was anything confronting them except I was on guard in front of the nicely a negro who belonged to a planthe little handful of cavalry they had Colonel's tent May 7. During the tation near by came gliding along the fired upon, so were in no hurry to get afternoon an Orderly rode up and cut and beckoned to the Lieutenant. away. It was Gen. Augur's intention to handed the Colonel an official envelope. He informed the officer that there was a bring his whole force to the front, press | Soon afterwards the Sergeant-Major | company of rebel cavalry over beyond the enemy back to the river, and try to came up, whereupon the Colonel in- the house, who were going to cut them save the wagon and railroad bridges formed him that the order called for 12 off, and that a few of their number were